AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (*Previously Presented*) A time-shared communications architecture for communicating digitized information for an industrial process control system, the architecture comprising at least one industrial local area network conveying deterministic traffic between a plurality of programmed operating units which process and store information, the architecture capable of being accessed by a customer computer equipped with a predetermined protocol stack, wherein at least one of the plurality of programmed operating units comprises an embedded local server capable of responding to non-deterministic requests received from another programmed operating unit or from the customer computer, said architecture using time slots left available by the deterministic traffic of the industrial local area network for responding to non-deterministic requests without disturbing priority message traffic related to real time process control.

2. (*Previously Presented*) The time-shared communications architecture according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of programmed site units which comprise at least one cluster and at least one of said programmed site units comprising an embedded local server capable of responding to non-deterministic requests, wherein the at least one cluster comprises a cluster local area network of a bus type specific to the at least one cluster and which connects the

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at least one cluster to at least one shared programmed unit serving as a gateway or as a router to said industrial local area network.

3. (*Currently Amended*) A method of communicating non deterministic digitized information ~~for an industrial process control system, wherein non-deterministic digitized information required to control an industrial process is interchanged over at least one site network between at least one site device and a programmed operating unit, said method using available time slots provided over the site network by the deterministic interchange mode to interchange the non-deterministic digitized information, without disturbing priority message traffic related to said industrial process~~ between a unit connected to the Internet using an Internet protocol and at least one programmed operating unit or one programmed site unit of an industrial process control system using a real time data exchange protocol over an industrial process control network, in which digitized information required to control an industrial process is interchanged in real time over said industrial process control network in a deterministic mode, the method comprising:

providing the at least one said programmed unit of said industrial process control system with an Internet protocol server, and

using an Internet protocol for interchanging the non deterministic digitized information between said unit connected to the Internet and said at least one programmed unit of said industrial process control system using unused time slots available over said industrial process control system network by the deterministic interchange mode.

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4. (*Previously Presented*) The time-shared communications architecture according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined protocol stack is an HTTP/TCP/IP protocol stack.

5. (*Previously Presented*) The time-shared communications architecture according to claim 2, further comprising at least one of a process control operation platform, a supervision operation main station or a process computer coupled to said industrial local area network.

6. (*Previously Presented*) The time-shared communications architecture according to claim 2, further comprising at least one of a router or a gateway that couples said industrial local area network to an external network.

7. (*Previously Presented*) The time-shared communications architecture according to claim 1, wherein said embedded local server is a HTTP server, said HTTP server responding with an optionally interactive computer document if a request is received by said HTTP server.

8. (*Previously Presented*) The time-shared communications architecture according to claim 7, wherein said request comprises the insertion or the extraction of parameters or variables stored in said programmed operating unit that includes said embedded local server.

9. (*Previously Presented*) The time-shared communications architecture according to claim 2, wherein said embedded local server is a HTTP server, said HTTP server responding with an optionally interactive computer document if a request is received by said HTTP server.

10. (*Previously Presented*) The time-shared communications architecture according to claim 9, wherein said request comprises the insertion or the extraction of parameters or variables stored in said programmed site unit that includes said server.

11. (*Previously Presented*) The method of communicating information as claimed in claim 3, said method further comprises storing information on said at least on site device.

12. (*Previously Presented*) The method of communicating information as claimed in claim 11, said method further comprises allowing a user to access said stored information through said site network, wherein said programmed operating unit is connected to an external network.

13. (*Previously Presented*) The method of communicating information as claimed in claim 3, said method further comprises storing information on said programmed operating unit.

14. (*Previously Presented*) The method of communicating information as claimed in claim 13, said method further comprises allowing a user to access said stored information through said site network, wherein said programmed operating unit is connected to an external network.